

WAR DEPARTMENT
Military Intelligence Service
Washington, D. C.

29 August 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY BRANCH:

SUBJECT: Change of Command

1. A little over a year ago, at the time of the reorganization of MIS, when I assumed command of the Military Branch, I addressed an appeal to you asking for your cooperation, loyalty and support in establishing an organization that would aid in winning the war. That portion of our mission has been successfully completed. Unquestionably, your effort has been an important factor in winning the decision over the Japanese Nation months ahead of schedule.

2. This achievement is the product of the whole-hearted effort of every single member of the Branch. We have operated as a team with each one assuming his or her full share of the load to the limit of human endurance. Each of you can look beribboned men from the combat areas squarely in the eye with head erect and be justly proud in the knowledge that you did your full part in the combat effort and, in fact, made it possible for thousands of these brave men to return to their homes and loved ones when they might otherwise have been lost in battle.

3. I have been relieved of the command of the Military Branch. I leave this assignment with the greatest regret. Because of our experiences and our success together, I feel we all belong together, and the spirit and ideals we have developed should continue. I feel a deep personal obligation to each one of you for the tremendous loyalty and support you have given me and the chiefs of your sections.

4. Since the early days of our effort, I have been convinced that WACs would make fine intelligence officers, and my confidence in them has been more than justified. From Major Peterson, who has set an outstanding example for all WACs, down to our WAC Privates, that confidence has been amply borne out. It is no accident that approximately half of Pacific Order of Battle Section personnel are WACs. War is no longer a man's game.

5. I have always treated the civilian personnel the same as the military personnel, demanding and expecting just as much from them as from anyone else. They have never let us down - not once - even though our demands severely encroached upon their rights and privileges as Civil Service employees. The civilians have earned their place in the permanent intelligence organization. It is regretted they couldn't have worn the uniform which they did so much to honor and support.

6. As for our Allied personnel, they who came to us and submerged themselves into our large organization; they have done a magnificent job, and their respective services can well be proud of their achievements. It has been a real privilege to have had them with us, for they have proved that people of different nations can work together in unity and harmony. Intelligence has set the course for the United Nations, and if the working personnel of the United Nations Organization operate as well together as did our team, the peaceful future of the world is assured.

7. Finally, I'd like to point out that there's still a mighty job to be done. We have come a long way in the past year and a half, and we must all work to establish and stabilize what we know to be right. Colonel W. A. Perry has been selected to command the Military Branch. He is one of the finest and most capable intelligence officers in the U. S. Army. We are fortunate to have him in the uncertain days ahead when the pattern of our peacetime strategic intelligence organization will be established. He will need the same generous cooperation, loyalty, and affection that you have given me in the past fifteen months. Give him all you have; we may well build the permanent intelligence organization which an alert and well-informed nation has every right to expect, and one which is capable of preventing war in the future.



J. R. LOVELL
Colonel, GSC